

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

Date: 12/17/03

By: 
Rena lov



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: FUNAOKA, MASAMITSU
APPLICATION No.: 10/619,930
FILED: JULY 15, 2003
FOR: **NOVEL LIGNIN DERIVATIVES, MOLDED
PRODUCTS USING THE SAME AND
PROCESSES FOR MAKING THE SAME**

ART UNIT: 1646
CONF. No: 6822

**Information Disclosure Statement Within Three Months of
Application Filing or Before First Action – 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. Timing of Submission

This information disclosure is being filed within three months of the filing date of this application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever occurs last [37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)]. The references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) may be material to the examination of this application; the Examiner is requested to make them of record in the application.

2. Cited Information

☐ Copies of the following references are enclosed:

- ☐ All cited references
- ☐ References marked by asterisks
- ☐ The following:

- ☒ Copies of the following references can be found in parent U.S. Application No. 09/508,592 filed on June 5, 2000 and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,632,931 on October 14, 2003:

- ☒ All cited references
- ☐ References marked by asterisks
- ☐ The following:

- ☐ The following references are not in English. For each such reference, the undersigned has enclosed (i) a translation of the reference; (ii) a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office or International Searching Authority citing the reference, (iii) a copy of a reference which appears to be an English-language counterpart, or (iv) an English-language abstract for the reference prepared by a third party. Applicant has not verified that the translation, English-language counterpart or third-party abstract is an accurate representation of the teachings of the non-English reference, though, and reserves the right to demonstrate otherwise.

- ☐ All cited references
- ☐ References marked by ampersands
- ☐ The following:

3. Effect of Information Disclosure Statement (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h))

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the cited information is, or is considered to be, material to patentability. In addition, applicant does not admit that any enclosed item of information constitutes prior art to the subject invention and specifically reserves the right to demonstrate that any such reference is not prior art.

4. Fee Payment

No fees are believed due because this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action.

- ☐ Applicant further submits that no fee is due in light of the following certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one):
 - ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned hereby states that each item of information submitted herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement; or

- ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2), the undersigned hereby states that no item of information submitted herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

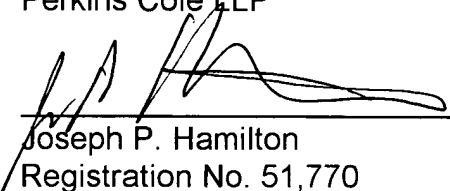
However, should the Commissioner determine that fees are due in order for this Information Disclosure Statement to be considered, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0665.

5. Patent Term Adjustment (37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d))

- ☐ The undersigned states that each item of information submitted herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d).

Respectfully submitted,
Perkins Coie LLP

Date: 12/17/2003

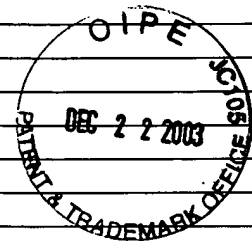


Joseph P. Hamilton
Registration No. 51,770

Correspondence Address:

Customer No. 34055
Perkins Coie LLP
Patent – LA
P.O. Box 1208
Seattle, WA 98111-1208
Phone: (310) 788-9900
Fax: (310) 788-3399

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Form PTO-1449 (Modified) (Use several sheets if necessary)				COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
				Application Number	10/619,930
				Confirmation Number	6822
				Filing Date	July 15, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Masamitsu Funaoka
				Group Art Unit	1646
Examiner Name	Not yet assigned				
Attorney Docket No.	54014.8101.US01				
Sheet	1	of	2		



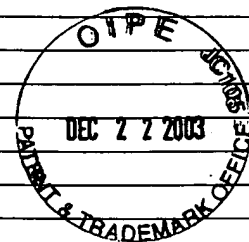
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	U.S. Patent or Application		Name of Patentee or Inventor of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)			
	AA	4,764,597		Dilling	8/1988	
	AB	4,769,434		Van der Klashorst et al.	9/1988	
	AC	5,010,156		Cook et al.	4/1991	
	AD	6,632,931		Funaoka	10/14/03	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent or Application			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Office	NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)				
	AE	JP	1-16840			1/1989		
	AF	JP	2-233701			9/1990		
	AG	JP	7-196923			8/1995		
	AH	JP	9-278904			10/1997		
	AI	JP	2000-72888			3/2000		
	AJ	RO	97 848			1/1990		

OTHER PRIOR ART-NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T
	AK	Brunow, "On the Acid-catalysed Alkylation of Lignings," Holzforschung, vol. 45, No. 1, pp. 37-40, 1991.	
	AL	Ede et al., "Formic Acid/Peroxyformic Acid Pulping," Holzforschung, Vol. 43, No. 2, pp. 127-129, 1989.	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application(s).	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Form PTO-1449 (Modified) (Use several sheets if necessary)				COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
				Application Number	10/619,930
				Confirmation Number	6822
				Filing Date	July 15, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Masamitsu Funaoka
				Group Art Unit	1646
				Examiner Name	Not yet assigned
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket No.	54014.8101.US01



OTHER PRIOR ART-NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examine r Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T
	AM	Gierer et al., "Studies on the Condensation of Lignins in Alkaline Media Part II," Can. J. Chem., vol. 55, No. 4, pp. 593-599, 1977.	
	AN	Yasuda et al., "Chemical Structures of Sulfuric Acid Lignin," Holzforchung, Vol. 41, No. 1, pp. 59-65, 1987.	
	AO	M. Maeda, et al., "Construction of a Recyclable Formed Body by Mixing a Lignophenol Derivative with Cellular Fibers," Nihon Mokuzai Gakkai Chubu Shibu Taikai, pp. 52-53 (Oct. 16, 1995) (with English translation).	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance <u>and</u> not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application(s).	